

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY
OFFICE OF PROGRAM SERVICES
PROGRAM PROFILE

Opiate Substitution Outpatient Treatment

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Who Can I Contact At DBHR For More Information?

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DBHR Certification Supervisor and
Washington State Opioid Treatment Authority

What Is The Program Description?

Opiate substitution outpatient treatment meets the outpatient and opiate substitution program service requirements in WAC 388-805. Programs must meet both state and federal requirements. Each program provides a combination of chemical dependency counseling by Chemical Dependency Professionals (CDP) along with adjunctive medication reviewed and administered by medical staff. Each patient is seen by medical staff prior to initial medication administration.

Upon entry into the program, each patient receives a:

- Chemical dependency diagnostic evaluation by a CDP.
- Medical screening by medical staff.
- Physical examination with laboratory testing and CBC (complete blood count) by physician.
- Urine drug screen.
- Medication dose evaluations as needed.
- Annual physical examination.
- Weekly counseling for the first three months and monthly thereafter.

Programs must address an array of comprehensive medical, vocational, employment, legal, and psychological issues or provide referrals to community-based programs that have the expertise to address these issues.

Take-home medication is regulated by an eight-point criteria consisting of length and participation in treatment, results of urine drug screens, and stability in living environment. Take-home medication is subject to a call-back protocol as an anti-diversion procedure. A patient may be called by the clinic to return with their take-home medication to verify compliance. All pregnant patients are provided information about how the medication will affect them and their fetus prior to the first dose. Pregnant patients are followed by an OB/GYN and the program physician who regularly evaluates the medication regime.

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Each program must be:

- Licensed by Washington State Department of Health Board of Pharmacy.
- Licensed by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.
- Certified by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.
- Certified by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.
- Accredited by the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery or another federally recognized accreditation body.

Programs are limited to 350 patient slots by RCW 70.96A, unless the county in which the program is located authorizes more slots.

What Populations Are Served/ Who Is Eligible For These Services?

Patients must meet DSM IV diagnostic criteria for opiate dependence and meet state and federal eligibility requirements for admission. Pregnant and intravenous drug users are priority populations for admission.

How Many People Are Served During The Biennium?

For the period June 2007 to May 2009 – 6,045 patients were served.

What Is The Biennial Funding Amount and Source(s)?

The counties were allocated in total \$5,282,670 for Opiate Substitution Treatment in the current biennium (09-11). The source of funds is General Fund State.

What Would Be The Impact If This Program Was No Longer Available?

If these programs no longer existed there would be an increase in:

- Criminal activity to obtain illicit opiate drugs.
- Utilization of emergency rooms to obtain opiate medication.
- HIV/AIDS due to IV drug use.
- Hepatitis C due to IV drug use.
- Health care costs.
- Recidivism in state correctional institutions.
- Homelessness.
- For pregnant patients: poor birth outcomes including spontaneous abortions.

What Agencies Collaborate With DBHR To Deliver These Services?

- County Alcohol/Drug services contract with agencies to deliver these services.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Division of Pharmacological Therapies.
- Washington State Department of Health Board of Pharmacy
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- County and Tribal Governments

What Are The Sources For Program Data or More Information?

- DBHR web site – <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/DASA/>
- CSAT Division of Pharmacological Therapies - <http://dpt.samhsa.gov/>